

Psalm 24: The Earth is Jehovah's
05-12-19

Psalm 24 contains three parts that seem almost independent of one another. Part 1 declares the earth belongs to God. Part 2 speaks to those whom may stand before God. This is a restatement of Psalm 15. Finally, part 3 pertains to the glorious King. This too is a restatement, in this case of Psalm 10. Our thoughts will remain then on the first part.

David declares that the Earth is Jehovah's in the first two verses. Paul used this passage to proclaim all things are clean (1 Corinthians 10:23-26). Therefore, this also implies all things are for us. This is nothing new, even in David's time. God had decreed this in Genesis 1:29 and in Genesis 9:3.

David's statement is one of power and law. The Earth is Jehovah's refers to a concept of dominion and authority. In what regard does God hold the creation? We know He saw it as good in Genesis 1:31. Consider too that He has a covenant with it (Jeremiah 33:20). It is of great importance to understand that God has passed that authority to man (Genesis 1:26 "*let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth*"). Man is told to subdue the creation in Genesis 1:28. Therefore we should declare that man does not dwell in harmony with nature. Man rules nature; nature serves man. Nature is not our mother but our servant.

Because God has passed that authority to man, perhaps for this reason creation shares the curse. We are told that it is because of man that the soil is cursed (Genesis 3:17) and perhaps indirectly the beast is cursed – Genesis 9:3 w/ 1:30,

What does man's stewardship look like? We have several examples of God's expectations of man in His law. First there is the Sabbath Rest of Leviticus 25:1-7. There God commanded that land lie fallow; when left undone this defined the captivity. Job defined integrity as working his land in Job 31:38-39. The law of Moses also made provisions for beasts. Deuteronomy 25:4 forbid muzzling oxen while treading grain; this may be an example of the meaning of Proverbs 12:10.

Man's Stewardship might be summed up as this: 1. He is not to pillage the land; 2. He is not to mistreat the creatures; 3. He is not to reap without sowing.

It is important to remember that God has decreed that the earth will cease: *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up* (2 Peter 3:0). This is the global warming God promises.